

## HONORING CODY ALECIA

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Cody Alecia, of Denair, California.

What has America come to when a 13-year-old student must be concerned for his safety when he waves the American flag? This past week, Denair Middle School, located in my home district, asked one of their students, Cody Alecia, to remove an American flag he has been proudly displaying on the back of his bicycle for two months. Cody and his family were told that the flag needed to be removed for his own safety, in light of problems that arose during the previous school year when students carried the Mexican flag to the school on Cinco de Mayo. Thankfully, on November 12th, the school district reversed the decision and has informed Cody that he can once again display his flag.

I am pleased that the Denair Unified School District has made the correct decision and is once again allowing Cody to display his flag. However, I am deeply concerned about the circumstances that led to Cody being asked to remove his flag in the first place and want to make every member of the House aware of it. I raise this issue on the floor of the House because I believe what happened to Cody gives us a snapshot of our current national culture. The flag of the United States of America is a symbol of everything that this country stands for—unity, prosperity and freedom. Every morning, in classrooms across America, students of all ages and nationalities pledge their allegiance to the flag and to this country. For an American student to ever be told that displaying the American flag in America may make him a target for violence is a travesty and terrible testament to what is happening in our country.

I am proud of Cody for choosing to display his patriotism, his respect for the men and women who have fought and died for this country, and his love of this country. And I am proud to represent this community, which has displayed such overwhelmingly positive support for Cody. I want to thank “The American Legion Patriot Guard” and the other riders here today, especially the Merced American Legion, Post 83, Patriot Guard, for their organization and passion to the cause. I would also like to thank everyone else who chose to walk and ride to Denair Middle School with Cody this morning and to display their pride in the American flag and the ideals that it represents. I hope many more people will be inspired by Cody's example and will choose to fly the flag more often.

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION 34TH ANNUAL GALA**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted

its 34th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Dr. M. Nabil Shabeeb, M.D., FACS.

A successful General Surgeon who runs his private practice in Northwest Indiana, Dr. Shabeeb has dedicated his life to medicine. His practice specializes in thyroid and parathyroid surgery, breast cancer surgery, and laparoscopic surgery, as well as cancer support group programs. In addition to his busy medical practice, Dr. Shabeeb has committed himself to many organizations and foundations that positively impact the medical community and the people of Northwest Indiana.

In 1977, Dr. Shabeeb graduated from the College of Human Medicine at Damascus University. He went on to complete his five-year residency at the University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospital in 1984. Soon after, he established his private practice in Northwest Indiana. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Shabeeb has gone above and beyond his medical duties as a General Surgeon, serving on numerous medical boards and dedicating much of his time to countless organizations. He has been a member of the Lake County Medical Society since 1984, and has served as a delegate and board member since 1992. At Community Hospital in Munster, Dr. Shabeeb served as Chairman of Surgery from 1992 to 1997, and President of Medical Staff from 1997 to 2001. Currently, Dr. Shabeeb serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Munster Medical Research Foundation, the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, and the Community Cancer Research Foundation. He is also a founding member and Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Cancer Resource Center, a program of the Community Cancer Research Foundation. The Cancer Resource Center is an exceptional program that provides support, counseling, and education to cancer patients and their family and friends free of charge. To date, visits to the center have totaled more than 19,000. For his outstanding commitment to medicine and his many community efforts, in April, 2010, Dr. Shabeeb received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Syrian American Medical Society—Midwest Chapter, an educational and humanitarian medical organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Dr. Nabil Shabeeb, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to

improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Dr. Shabeeb are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, DC.

## HONORING STEVE CROPPER

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Cropper. On October 17, 2010, Steve was inducted into the Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

He has been listed as one of the Top 100 guitarists of all time by Rolling Stone Magazine, and for good reason. Being raised in Memphis, Steve bought his first guitar at age 14. Since then, he has led a musically charged life of which most could only dream.

He has played and co-written with the Blues Brothers, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding and Eric Clapton, just to name a few. “Sittin’ On the Dock of the Bay”, which he co-wrote with Redding is the 6th most-played song of all time.

Steve is a friend and a true asset to our great state of Tennessee and it is a privilege to recognize him here today.

## HONORING THE BENZIGER FAMILY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the Benziger Family, whose economic, environmental, and philanthropic contributions in the Sonoma Valley have earned its businesses due recognition as 2010 Sonoma Valley Business of the Year. Both Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery have pioneered a sustainable approach to agriculture and a humanitarian approach to business. Their active presence continues to strengthen and enrich Sonoma Valley communities.

Starting in the mid-1990s, Benziger Family Winery began its transition into biodynamic agriculture. They eliminated chemicals and other artificial elements in favor of a more holistic and organic method that capitalizes on the vitality of a vineyard that is allowed to thrive in a natural state. Benziger Family Winery has even been recognized by the National Resources Defense Council for its water conservation strategies. Imagery Estate Winery was founded in the same tradition, and the result is not only a greener footprint, but richer and more distinctive products that embody their unique places of origin. Indeed, Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery have earned reputations as producers of exceptional quality not only in California, but worldwide.

The Benziger Family has brought the same care and commitment to its active role in Sonoma Valley communities, supporting local